

# CREATING GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS



European Youth in the Favelas of São Paulo  
Political Journey 2016 - Final Report

For the month of February 2016, we – a group of young people from Escola da Esperança and our teachers – engaged in a learning exchange with 2 inspiring projects situated in the Favelas of São Paulo: The Projeto Ancora and the Favela da Paz - Slum of Peace. We are back full of new experiences, gratitude and ideas for the future. In this report we want to let you know what happened during our journey.

**“Our schools must be changed into learning biotopes in which young people can nourish their curiosity with inspiration and engagement and take responsibility for creating their worlds.**

**Learning has to be released from hierarchical superiority into a creative exchange amongst learners. The creators of the 21st Century need knowledge which cannot be simply ‘learned by rote’ but must be gained through the learner’s own drive and experience.”**

**Prof. Dr. Gerald Hüther, Neuroscientist**

## What are Political Journeys?

Political Journeys are an essential part of the concept of Escola da Esperança. In our Travelling School the younger children explore the immediate surrounding and other countries in Europe. The teenage students venture further into the world; for them the political journeys are part of their initiation into adulthood.

The Travelling School constitutes an important element of our school because many learning subjects can be experienced hands on in real life situations and therefore more easily internalized. Shorter and longer journeys bring us into contact with the people and culture, allow us to learn geography, to research history on-site, to learn languages efficiently, to explore living spaces and biodiversity, as well as – for older children - to recognize the different political contexts around the world and the pervasive system of global capitalism. Additionally, travelling offers character-building opportunities. Such as, dealing with new impressions, finding one's way in new situations, and being away with a group. This often leads to developmental leaps which were not previously foreseeable.

**“In order for inter-cultural communication and cooperation to be possible an understanding and knowledge of the diversity of human cultures is essential. We live in a world situation that urgently calls for new ways of securing our environmental, economic and social livelihoods. Sustainability and global cooperation are more necessary than ever for the future of humanity. Education should help people to survive and to be ready for the future. It should allow for connective thinking, discernment, and direct experience; it should pass on joy and hope for the future. The development and implementation of innovative forms of learning with future-oriented subject matter is not only an educational issue but has long been a political one.” - Escola da Esperança Concept ([www.escola-da-esperanca.org](http://www.escola-da-esperanca.org))**



# Political Journey 2016 - European Youth in the Favelas of São Paulo

## Short history of the Travelling School in our Project

In the community of Tamera we accompanied several generations of young people on Political Journeys into various countries. This concept is now continued in Escola da Esperança. Many of the Political Journeys are created in cooperation with Tamera's long-term cooperation partners of the Global Campus ([www.tamera.org](http://www.tamera.org) - Global Campus).

- ◆ India, 1998
- ◆ Croatia, 2000
- ◆ Grace Pilgrimage in Israel/Palestine, 2007
- ◆ Grace Pilgrimage in Portugal, 2008
- ◆ Grace Pilgrimage in Colombia, 2010
- ◆ Student Exchange Brazil, 2016



The theatre piece "The black Shadow and the Riddle of the Princess" was created by the young actors on the basis of their experiences in Israel/Palestine. For many years this play was in the core of our internal and international community-building. The piece was performed in Germany, Switzerland, Portugal and finally in Colombia together with a group of young actors from a Peace Village in Colombia.

([www.escola-da-esperanca.org](http://www.escola-da-esperanca.org) - Projects - Theatre)



Now we want to seduce you to venture into the story of this journey through the eyes of the young participants who lived it. (Translated from German)

## Preparation

The Journey to Brazil became our "Project of the year" in Escola da Esperança for all students from 13 years old and over. The preparation time is crucial for such a journey. It creates a possibility to dive into the core questions of the young people and through this curriculum content can be learned in a very joyful and profound way.



"The whole project actually started when the adults asked us if we want to go on a Political Journey. Or, more precisely, "who is excited about it and wants to join?". Of course we were all really excited and almost everybody wanted to go. At this point, of course, we had no idea how much work and effort it was going to be to make it happen. So we wanted to make a massive crowd funding campaign to receive all the donations we needed from many people. For the journey we planned to fly to Brazil for one month with eight youth and five teachers, to stay in a school called Projeto Ancora for two weeks as part of a student exchange, to go for three days to a small community in a nature reserve to visit an old growth forest, and then to drive for ten days to Favela da Paz." - **Marcos**





## The Crowdfunding



"The crowd funding campaign launched in January. We started to write to our families to tell them about our project. We explained that we will make a crowdfunding campaign and that we wish for their support. We created a lot of new videos to report on our progress. We did a lot of actions in the community as well such as washing cars, a pizza celebration, a few pitches, and again and again we organised send out parties and invited friends from the community to write to their family and friends." - **Marcos**



"The crowdfunding was running shockingly bad in the first ten days, we soon realised that each of us would have to work flat out to get it on track. This meant that everyday we met after school to see what else we could do, we often worked until late in the evening to send sendouts, and we did weekend actions. In this time I fell into my bed like a ton of bricks at the end of every day. But somehow after every day where we had done so much I felt so good and simply happy. When we started to train ourselves as a group we were a bunch of youth who really had no idea what to do with themselves. During this time we became ever better. We began to care for the others, we took more responsibility, and we learned to speak in public." - **Joscha**

## The Video

The first common challenge was to create the crowdfunding movie to show our idea and motivation.



"When I heard for the first time that we needed to shoot a movie my first thought was that I will not be able to stand in front of a camera and speak really clearly. It turned out that actually I was not so wrong about that. In some moments it didn't really work out for a few of us. But I believe that all of us just really wanted to go on this journey and finally it was extremely interesting to find out how to make the movie together. For me the most beautiful thing was to see, while shooting the movie, that with knowledge, friendship, and an aim something really beautiful could be created. What I also found really cool was that Firas, a filmmaker from Germany, helped us so much even though he was not paid for it." - **David**



"For me it was also difficult to speak in front of a camera or an audience. I believe that I got better at this. I also got better at speaking about things in the group. For example, I could speak about things that are challenging me and things that I wouldn't normally share in a group. In this preparation time we got know each other a lot better and our friendships deepened." - **Marcos**

A "star on the horizon" was our main speaker in the movie – Mia. In a 4 hour action in summer heat of around 35 degree she managed to make all the recordings with amazing joy and concentration. Later on in the process she decided not to join the journey because of personal reasons. Thank you Mia for your great engagement!



Home is being embedded in a greater whole! The experience of engaging together for a common aim that is truly important to you is the basis for the development of community. Here the young people learn to form a group where they can rely on one another. They experience a power that is much greater than only their personal power.





"One really needs energy and willpower for a crowdfunding campaign. I knew that we will only go on the journey if we managed to raise the €36,000. Two things were important, courage and teamwork. It was clear that nobody would manage to do it alone. In terms of courage, it is easier said than done to ask other people for money! If we wanted to reach the €36,000 everyday we had to ask all the people that came into our minds. It was astonishing to me that many people were very joyful in giving their donations. It was a beautiful feeling to be supported in such a way." - **Neel**



"On the last evening of the crowdfunding campaign, the youth group, the team, and friends met in the cultural center of Tamera. We had until midnight to go from €33,000 to €36,000 and everybody was in excited anticipation if we would manage or not. Is this possible? And we did it! It was such an incredible, magical, and joyful moment for all of us when we could see €36,000 on the crowdfunding campaign page in big letters. In this moment I knew what I had done all this work for and I knew that all the effort had been worth it. We knew then that we really were going to Brazil." - **Gwendolin**



"I believe that in the preparation time I saw the team twice as much as my parents. For me this was a really cool community experience. In January we had six hours of political lessons every week to prepare ourselves for Brazil. In these political hours we learned a lot about Portugal and its former colonies and why there are favelas." - **Luca**



"We discovered things that I couldn't believe. For example, this year the richest 1% of the people had more money than then the remaining 99% of the population. I found it astounding how powerful people have become and what they are willing to do just to become even richer and more powerful. I find it a real a pity that people don't use their intelligence for relevant things but only to try and gain more money as quickly as possible." - **Hannah**



"A young man, Martin Winiecki, taught us politics. For me it is different than politics in a normal school because I had the feeling that we came a little bit closer to the truth. It was shocking to me how many things are hidden from the public. Somehow people only believe what they see in the media and don't ask what lies behind what is shown to them. Through this they can be governed and controlled very easily." - **Neel**

**We want to enable the children to access the world in such a way that they can develop comprehensive competency across a range of subjects and a forward-looking perspective. The acquisition of this competency encompasses a knowledge of forward-looking ecological, social, political and economic developments and puts them into a global context. The aim is that through the acquisition of this knowledge pupils will learn how to recognise situations and how to assess and critically reflect upon information. This will help them to learn how to be the co-creators of their immediate environment as well as the wider world in a way which is active and responsible and in sympathy with the world around them.**

## Inner Preparation



"The preparation time is really important for a Political Journey. For example to know how to deal with precarious situations in a way that one doesn't get into a state of panic." - **Gwendolin**

**In many meetings and "Forums" the youth learned to give each other feedback and to share their doubts, their joy and there questions. In Forum the participants' issues are framed on a 'human stage' in such a way that it becomes clear that they are 'universal' and that we can all be a part of the solution. The Forum makes it possible to reflect on one's own actions and on social issues and conflicts within the group in an easy and light-hearted manner. It also serves as a conflict resolution tool and is an ideal communication tool for creating transparency, trust and social competency between all individuals and groups within the school. To achieve this, it is important that the individual performance of each participant of the Forum is protected within a judgement-free space.**





"With our newly gained knowledge it was a totally different feeling to go to a foreign place. If we would have gone without the political lessons we would have seen a polluted river and just thought "yeah that's not so great". But now we could really think about what we saw and discuss with our friends. We also learned a lot about the current economic system, globalisation, and colonisation and how they work on across the whole world and with a specific focus on Brazil." - **Gwendolin**

# Student Exchange With Projeto Âncora

## Our Arrival and First Impressions on the Way



"One week later, in the morning on the day of departure we had a ritual in the Altar of Tamera to pray for security, joy, and luck on our journey." - **Marcos**



"Then, 13th February 2016, we arrived in Sao Paulo. It was such a feeling of success when we stepped out of the airplane and for the first time put our feet on Brazilian ground. We almost couldn't believe that it was true. At the same time I was strongly taken by the thought that there are children living somewhere close to here with whom we will spend the next two weeks. This was really exciting." - **Neel**



"On the way to our house we already had the first impressions, big luxurious hotels next to favelas. The favelas were jammed together into every bit of possible space. I couldn't understand how one could live in such a hotel with such a view onto the favelas where some of the houses are simply made of rubbish and junk. There were also areas where there were nature bloomed and banana trees and beautiful flowers were growing. This was a very diverse view to observe." - **Hannah**

Projeto Âncora is a world-renowned school that creates a radically new model of learning. The children create projects according to their own needs and to those of their community. Accompanied by a tutor they develop learning plans for everything necessary to fulfill the aims of their projects.

## First Day In Projeto Ancora



"Monday morning 7:20am we walked to Ancora. There we met the youth for the first time. With them we would make the student exchange and we had already exchanged letters with each other. At the beginning we were all really shy. But very quickly we pulled ourselves together and we went to them and started speaking with them. At first we separated into two groups and then the children from Projeto Ancora showed us around. They showed us their place, their learning rooms, and they told us what they learn in which room. In the first days we spent together we played many games to get to know each other and to become friends." - **Marcos**



## The Most Exciting Moment



"Now the moment has come, I am looking at my clock and it's 4pm, end of class. Now we will go together to their homes. When I felt that I wanted to stay with Rico I felt like a five year old child refusing to go to Kindergarten on the first day. I didn't want to let go of his hand, at the end I pulled myself together and stepped onto the bus with the girl that was taking me to her home. On the way she told me that her family's house is quite small. I was not surprised that she said this because I knew that I was not going to a wealthy family house but when we arrived I was still astounded. They didn't have a living room or a dining room. The girl did not have her own room and the kitchen was just a sink and a gas cooking hob. They offered me a single bed to sleep in. But the next morning I saw that the whole family of four people had spent the night in one small double bed. I immediately felt weird, I didn't feel good about having a whole bed to myself. In the afternoon the family asked me many questions. They asked me about Portugal, our community, how we live, the aims of Tamera, my family etc. The mother was so curious." - **Neel**



"On the first afternoon, when I went home with the boy I would be living with I didn't have a clue what was awaiting me. But somehow this was also exactly what we had prepared ourselves for. When we stepped off the bus the boy opened a metal gate and we were standing at the foot of some stairs made of concrete that were not the most beautiful stairs. I was already thinking, "Oh my god...", but when we finally entered the house it was really beautiful and it was big for the neighbourhood we were in. The mother of the boy received us in a very friendly way and showed us the house. At the beginning I didn't say a word but after a while I dared to ask questions. We got along better and better. Both of us had many questions, therefore it was a long conversation!" - **Joscha**



"On the first morning - great start- I was woken up by my room mate bumping into me. After breakfast I was still in the bathroom and when I came back everybody had already left the house. I had to run after them to the bus, nobody had told me anything! Back in Ancora I was really happy to see my friends from Tamera again." - **Hannah**



"I lived in a family with a 14 year old daughter. I was trying for a long time to somehow help in the house to give them something back. But in the moment I even got close to the sink I was gently but quickly transported from the kitchen. One day when I came back from school and I was eating my daily cake I took the chance, stood up and closed the door so no one would see me, and started my cleaning project. When the mother entered she was really surprised. I also had very interesting talk with my family about Tamera, my life there, and about Jesus and God." - **Gwendolin**

## Learning in Ancora



"In Ancora the day starts with a self-evaluation. Everybody writes down what they liked the day before and what was not so cool. After that everybody creates their own schedule. The teachers say what offers there are during the day so that you can decide which offers you want to take part in. You can write everything in the schedule, even if you want to have ten minutes to leave the room and chat with a friend." - **Hannah**



"Of course not everybody could just write only acrobatics, art, and breaks in the schedule because there is a learning programme for two weeks that is created with the students and the teachers that needs to be fulfilled. I myself liked the school very much, even though I know that some of our group didn't like it so much because there are many rules that really challenge one's consciousness." - **Marcos**



"In Ancora they work with very simple rules, but there are many of them and they are very strict in applying them and there are no exceptions. These rules are the basis for the structure of the school. Ancora works with children from poorer circumstances up to middle-class. Therefore nobody is allowed to bring their own snacks, pencils, or exercise books. So that no power games or inequalities arise. This really impressed me." - **Neel**



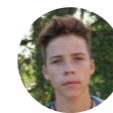


"The school is situated between three favelas. Four years ago it was opened as an official free school and there is no fee for attending the school. 170 students from these three favelas attend this school. When we were there we were astonished to learn how the school had developed over the years. A teacher told us a story about how the kids and youth behaved in former times compared to now. He said that a teacher couldn't walk from the dining hall to the office without having to intervene in at least four fights. Sometimes the students even threw stones at them. There are probably more of these stories. This is why we were so astonished because we didn't realise that such a bad relation between students and between students and teachers was possible. Now it has totally changed." - **Neel**

**Projeto Ancora** managed to create a real oasis for the children coming from difficult backgrounds. By learning about democracy in a playful way they learn to manage conflict, make compromises and stand up for their opinions. The "Assembleia" gives them the opportunity to make their own suggestions for the structure of life and the school, as well as learning how to solve their own social conflicts by designing new ideas and solutions together. This flair of being taken seriously opens an amazing space of trust between the teachers and learners.



## How Was The Time After The School?



"During the next week we became better and better friends with the other children. We visited each other in spent the afternoons together. At the end of the week on Friday I visited Neel and Hannah in their host family. We went on the streets and played there with many kids from the area." - **Marcos**



"The youth groups in the evenings became bigger and bigger. Some youth joined that lived in the same street as the girls we lived with but had never had any contact with them before. They often said things like "no these boys that are playing soccer they are always really mean." Or, "we never play with them." But we just ignored that and still asked them if they want to play with us. After that it became clear that the boys are actually really nice. David and Julia often visited us with the kids of their host family. We revived old friendships and created new ones between us and the Brazilians and amongst the Brazilians themselves. On the last evening we were around 25-30 youth." - **Hannah**



"There was one situation where a twelve year old boy sat next to me and told me in such a beautiful way about the favela and the life there. I was really amazed that such a young boy knew so much. He really spoke from his heart, as if I was his best friend. I was really happy that he just did this. All the children have so much joy and they are always smiling. I would have loved to take them to Portugal with me. One boy said that he will try everything to be able to come to Portugal when we do the student exchange in September." - **Julia**



"We had a very beautiful contact with the youth there. They were 90% girls so therefore the boys were almost under siege with female attention. The girls from Tamera were not so excited about this. Most of the boys fell in love. We all started new friendships, this was really great as the circle of friends of the Tamera youth is becoming bigger and more global." - **Gwendolin**





## Growing Friendship



"One Saturday we went to a park in the centre of Sao Paulo. The class that we visited had planned this for a long time as a surprise. Everybody brought something to eat. We created a picnic on the meadow and piled up all the food we had on the blankets. There was a lot of Brazilian food and fruits. In the afternoon we played volleyball, football, and other games in the park. After sometime the adults said we can go to the Planetarium and that we should stand in the queue. Later on when we were allowed to enter it was really funny. Joscha and David walked to the centre stage and started dancing. The whole planetarium had to laugh." - **Marcos**



"We had very touching moments. For example there was a situation where we were in a queue in a shop and the young daughter of the father of our host family asked if she can have one of the sweets in the shelves by the check out. But the father replied, "if I buy you one of the sweets now I will have to buy you less bread for breakfast tomorrow". When he said that she decided that she wanted the bread. This was new for me because I believe that I have never been in a situation where I couldn't afford something so small." - **Marcos**



"In Ancora it became more and more normal to be there and slowly I had the feeling I was really part of the school. Ancora and Tamera children mixed up and very beautiful friendships started. The contacts got more and more relaxed and comfortable and three of the boys even fell in love which I think means a lot." - **Neel**



"On the last day we gathered with the whole school to hand over the Peace Dove of Hillinger. This dove is an award that is passed on from one great humanitarian project to another. We got the dove from a school in Berlin and we passed it on to Ancora." - **Gwendolin**



"Then, on Saturday we invited our whole class to our host Paul and had a party. It was super cool. The father David's host family asked me and Neel if we have a short moment of time because he wanted to give us a gift and he didn't know what. We went to a shop with him and everybody was able to choose something. He was crying when we left because he knew we had to leave, he said that we had taught him so much. He told us that at the beginning he was afraid of receiving one of us in his family because he was afraid that he couldn't give us the luxury and love we are used to." - **Hannah**



"When the time is Ancora was over I did not want to leave because I had begun to feel completely at home. I became friends with the boy I was living with and I knew his parents as well as if they were my parents. When all the kids were gone we were so sad and we immediately began to miss them." - **Joscha**



"My German children. You have been people who have changed my life. You showed us that there is a lot of love and tenderness at your place that you can give on to us. We love you."  
- **Goodbye letter from one of the families**

## Reflection Time in Nature in Terra Luminous



"In Terra Luminous we were very close to nature because it was right outside our door. We did many tours through the original forest and the property of the project. But mainly we wrote in our diaries and had time to relax." - **Marcos**



"Once we saw a poisonous spider. Glenn, the caretaker of the property, was really excited and caught her. I found it crazy how big she was. When Glenn caught her in a plastic box she took on the attack position. Glenn told us that the spider can jump and that spiders are more dangerous than snakes because snakes have such a small head and therefore they cannot bite very easily." - **Hannah**



"On our last day in Terra Luminous we went to an amazingly beautiful place in the middle of the forest. We had to battle our way through rivers and thick bushes. When we arrived we were breathless. There was complete silence in an almost untouched forest except the raging waterfall. We all jumped into the water and went under the waterfall. It was an incredible day." - **Gwendolin**



## Visiting the Favela da Paz



"I would love to hear what you think when you read the word Favela. Before I was in Brazil and I only knew the pictures of Favelas I always thought of a junk yard. Maybe also a place where everything bad you can imagine happens. Robbery, murder, drug trafficking, hatred, and disease. To be honest I even had a bit of disgust when I thought about it. If you hold still for a moment you will probably realise that you thought or still think in exactly the same way as I did. But why do we think this way even though we have never been there? Yes, it's true, the media and the news tell us this and somehow we believe what they show us and do not wonder what more there is to see. Do you know that this really hurt a woman who has grown up in the Favela? She says that it is partially true but there are also really good things in the Favela. Projects that help and change many of the problems there. She ran away from home and started a project that spreads positive news such as news of a new vegetarian kitchen or a doctor that once was a drug dealer." - **Neel**

## Life in Favela da Paz



"The project was founded Claudio and Fabio (they are brothers). In these times they lived exactly where they live now in Jardim Angela. At that time, about 15 years ago, this neighbourhood was one of the most violent places in the whole world. One couldn't go into the neighbouring Favela if you lived in Jardim Angela because you could be shot. The two of them started to play music, originally only with instruments they made themselves. They continued doing this until they had real instruments. Their father created a music studio for them and they invited many people to play with them. They always did a lot of projects with music. In 2007 they almost stopped because they did a loads of things without a lot of results. At some point Claudio came to Tamera and gained new inspiration in his time there. Fabio is creating a little Solar Village in the Favela. He has already built a productive biogas system and he has really cool visions for what else one could do." - **Luca**





## Community Experiment



"Of course this has a big impact on the surrounding area. It really fascinates me how once can create something like this in such a place in such a short time."  
- **Gwendolin**



"On the first day we made "Vegearte" with Helem. She does this once a week with the women from the Favela. They only cook vegetarian food. She got the idea after being in Tamera and seeing that many people lived vegan here. It was lots of fun and it was beautiful to see how much Helem likes to do it. In the afternoon we visited the property that Poesia Samba Soul (their band) just bought. Here they want to create a big cultural centre with a vegetarian restaurant, a bigger studio, a biogas system, and many other things." - **Hannah**



"Helem told us a lot on this day: at the moment a certain kind of music is very common in the Favela, Funky Carioca. This music despises women and creates lots of problems especially with young women. The parties with such music are forbidden and the police raid the parties and stop them. In former times there were parties like this every week on the street where Claudio lives. In these parties lots of drugs and alcohol were consumed. Favela da Paz created a samba festival. Now on this street they only dance Samba. Kids can play outside and it is really chilled. So thanks to Claudio a lot changed for the better. Then she inducted us: please don't speak too long with the boys in front of the door. Don't go to then when they ask you something, they are drug dealers. Before we went to the Favela Juliane and Rico made us aware that there are drug dealers in the Favela. But this moment that really awakened me. Helem told us that the boys are always there. We asked her directly why she doesn't tell the police. Helem: It wouldn't be a solution just to arrest them. Then the next ones would come." - **Neel**



"In the ten days in the Favela, most of the time, in the mornings or afternoons we visited a project and the rest of the day we had time to write and talk about what we had experienced." - **David**



"The thirteen of us lived very closely together. At the beginning it was a bit chaotic and we got on eachothers nerves. Somehow we were always tripping over each other because it was so tight. Another fact was that the adults had all the responsibilities and therefore they seemed a bit annoyed sometimes. Then they started an experiement and gave us all the responsibilities. Marcos was responsible for cooking, David was responsible for dishwashing, Neel was responsible for cleaning the house, and Gweni was responsible for shopping. At the beginning the adults had to help a little bit but in the end it actually worked out quite well. The others helped everywhere. To have the responsibility didn't mean that you had to do everything by yourself but that you had to insure that the tasks are done." - **Luca**

Through our dense living situation in the Favela it was necessary, to overcome the private lifestyle and to become aware of the whole group. The Teenagers were challenged to not only think about the fulfilment of their personal needs, but to find ways, where the whole group benefits from it. In the beginning it was challenging to make that shift, but as soon as everyone took the decision to take care and be responsible for certain necessary tasks, the more creative ideas also came. The teenagers gained a lot of inner confidence during that time, as it is a big step of learning, to realise the own needs, to express them towards the others. By taking these impulses seriously we created unique evenings in our group. We are still observing a highly increased activity and participation of the teenagers in their social surrounding and in School. Social learning is the prerequisite for humane, political thinking and action.

## Você Reporta da Periferia

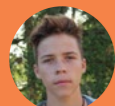


"We visited many different projects. First of all we went to a library. Everything began when some youth got a pencil and paper to report about alternative news from the Favela. Because in the media of today one only hears how bad it is in the Favela. Through this many people who live there stay in fear rather than changing something. This group started to look for projects in the periphery of Sao Paulo and to write about them or report about them and what they do on television. Many of them quit their studies or their job to be able to work in this project and to be able to change something in the favela. I found it so impressive how much effort people give in to help the people in the periphery without earning any money for it. It is so important to know that there are still people that have hope and that don't only want to leave the favela but actually want to change something there." - **Gwendolin**



"The woman that presented the project to us was really thankful that we had visited the project. She gave us huge thanks and didn't want to let us go." - **Hannah**

## Horizonte Azul



"Another day we visited a project called Horizonte Azul. It is a school that takes students from kindergarten up to vocational training. (The oldest student was more than fifty years old). They also told us horrible stories. For example, in former times gang wars were so strong that on some mornings they found dead youth in front of the doors. It was crazy for us to hear this. Fortunately all of this changed significantly for the better." - **Marcos**



"We were also in a classroom. I found it so beautiful to see how happy the children were even though they came from crazy difficult circumstances." - **Gwendolin**



## Back in Jardim Angela



"Back in Favela da Paz many of us still visited the official school of the area. In there we went into every classroom and stood in front of the black board and told the class about Escola Da Esperanca. The students were definitely very friendly, we could exchange numbers with the youth to stay in contact. In one of the corridors we saw a young woman in my age that was pregnant. Helem that in the more poor areas of the Favela there are many of these Funky festivals. Funky is a music genre with a lot of violent and misogynist texts about drugs and prostitution. Of course I don't know if this young woman had had something to do with that or not. But these kinds of things do happen. The school building was much smaller than the portuguese schools and in the one of Jardim Angela there were two thousand students coming in and out." - **Gwendolin**



"One of the evenings I went to the studio with Maria and we played electric guitar together. This was so beautiful. Both of us couldn't play but we just gave it a go. Then Mike (band member) showed us a little bit how it works. This was funny. When we asked him if he can play he said no I can't. So after persuading him for ten minutes he started playing as if he had already been playing for ten years. Actually if any of them took any instrument in their hand they could play it as if it was the easiest thing in the world. Paulinho (band member) showed Hannah and I some rhythms on the drum kit and in the end we were actually really good ;). We had many beautiful moments like this with the band and amongst ourselves. I believe that I got to know myself a little better. I will never forget this feeling that I had there when I was looking out of the window and I saw this huge Favela in front of me. I also cannot really say what feeling it was. But I know that by just looking out of that window I learned a lot. For me the Favela da Paz was one of the best and most beautiful places." - **Julia**





## Goodbye



"On the last day we painted a picture for them with all of signatures and they sang a very beautiful song for us. I was close to tears." - **Neel**



"Saying goodbye was really hard for me, I was really happy that Paulinho accompanied us to the airport. When I said goodbye to Paulinho I had to cry. Usually I never cry when saying goodbye, I must love something about him in a different way than I love others." - **Hannah**

## Reflections



"Do you remember me saying what I think when I see a picture of the Favela? After this journey and this visit this picture looks totally different to me. I see memories and place where we could hangout. Of course one sees the poverty and the situation but you also see other things. I am grateful for that. I think that it's important to be able to see things with your own eyes. You have to make up your opinion." - **Neel**



"In the clip we made in 2012 I said: I want to get to know new cultures, new schools, and countries. All that and much more happened." - **Hannah**



"The most important thing for me on this journey was to get to know this completely different culture and the people there. And of course also the community experience in our group. I think that all of us learned a lot about how to behave in a community and how to think for everyone and not only for yourself. I will definitely go to Brazil for a longer period of time to deepen myself.

Since I came back from Brazil a lot has changed within me and without me. For example my parents have since a long time only bought organic and fairtrade products. I like that but I did not really know for what purpose. But in Brazil I saw who has to carry the consequences when we buy conventional products. The environment came much closer to me as I saw with my own eyes how fast such a rich country can become poor. The people in Brazil are so happy although they have to get by with so little. And the people in Germany and Switzerland have everything, clear water, good education, and still they are unhappy." - **Gwendolin**



"I believe I have learnt a lot about the Favela and how life actually is there and still there are a lot of projects that really want to help the people. And although the families are often quite poor they are still super hospitable and friendly. I think that in the preparation time especially I learnt a lot about the country Brazil, why the farmers move to the cities, and why there is often a water shortage in the cities." - **Marcos**



"What changed me was mainly situations, there were two situations which I found tough and I do believe that they changed something within me. One situation was that we were driving home in the school bus and I saw through the window how a drug dealer was caught by the Police. The other situation was when we were in Projeto Ancora and while playing soccer I saw a little boy being brutally beaten. I simply don't get what motivates people to do that. It is hard to explain what changed in me through witnessing these situations. But definitely the question hit me even more strongly." - **Joscha**



"I would really love to go on such a journey again because I think that through such journey's one gains self confidence and motivation for the rest of one's life." - **David**

**We – the teachers team - can really say that our dream and vision of this journey became true. Next to gaining a new vision of the world, learning community skills and becoming a strong group we can see the difference in the youth group facing our next challenge: In a view weeks most of the students will have national examinations. As part of the concept of our school we consciously decided to take the time for such a project even though it will need a lot of time that we will not be able to use for curriculum content like mathematics, science etc. We think that through this growth of consciousness, joy and strength the youth are able to learn school contents much faster. Now in our last 6 weeks before the tests we see that this is true!**

# Further visions

Back in Tamera we are now preparing the second part of the student exchange: The students of Projeto Ancora want to come to Tamera in September this year! Students, parents and teachers in Ancora have been so excited about our visit that for the first time in this project it seems to be possible to make such a big journey. 19 students, 3 teachers and 2 parents are now starting to plan, fundraise and study. They learn English, portuguese History and Geography but also the knowledge of sustainability present in the Peace Research Village Tamera. Our idea is to have 3 weeks together in Tamera. In this time the students of Ancora will take part in Escola da Esperanca and at the same time join in a common project – a new theatre piece! In the 4th week we want to make a small theatre tour to different places of our network of new schools in Portugal - Escola de Ponte, Escola da Terra, Odemira, Tamera



"I really wish that the student exchange continues so that youth group from Ancora can come to Tamera and that they stay in a community space with us. I am already looking forward to showing them around Tamera, to show them the lakes and the gardens etc. Or to go into the nights because in Sao Paulo nobody dares to go out in the nights because they are scared. Or to show them that it is possible to live in trust without having to lock your doors and without being scared when being outside. I am so happy that it was so easy for us to get into the language. I really fell in love with the Brazilian language." - **Gwendolin**



"I really hope that the children of Ancora get everything they need so that they can come here and have a beautiful time here. It would be beautiful to see all of them again. This journey made me aware of where I live. Tamera is such an advanced and wise community. I brought a lot of questions which similar projects have to which Tamera has already found answers." - **Neel**



## Affirmation



"When we were back in Tamera there was a fire walk one night to which the whole community was invited. The ritual holder gave us an introduction into fire walking. At some point she started asking us questions and giving us tasks. For example summarise in one word what Tamera is for you. Or what are your greatest fears. A little later we were all given a board and we had the task to write our greatest fears on it. After that we could go into the centre and use all our power to break the board. We were asked to completely focus on our fears and then give everything to break this board. When I saw and heard the embers and how the leader spoke about it I already knew that I want to walk and why I want to walk. I walked with the wish that the youth of Ancora will visit our school. While walking over the embers it felt more like moss to me then like embers. Of course you could feel that you are walking on something hot but that feeling was not in my feet." - **David**



# Thank You!

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